

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 EUR-25 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9982

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USUN NEW YORK 314

S E C R E T MONROVIA 5989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XA, XF

SUBJECT: AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: A. MONROVIA 5291

 B. MONROVIA 5875

 C. MONROVIA 5874

1. LIBERIAN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ISSUED FOLLOWING
PRESS RELEASE AFTERNOON OCTOBER 30 QUOTE NOW THAT
MIDDLE EAST CEASE-FIRE IS IN FORCE, IT CAN BE REVEALED
THAT DURING THE HEAT OF THE CRISIS, PRESIDENT TOLBERT
WAS IN CONSTATNT TOUCH WITH WORLD LEADERS, CONDUCTING
A QUIET BUT INTENSE DIPLOMACY WHICH EVOKED FAVOURABLE
RESPONSES FROM THOSE WHO WERE INFLUENCING THE ARAB-ISRAELI
CONFLICT, REPORTS HENRY B. COLE, PRESS SECRETARY TO THE
PRESIDENT.

AT THE START OF THE CLASH OF ARMS, DR. TOLBERT
REALIZED THAT THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS WAS A CLAMITOUS
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SITUATION. THE PRESIDENT WAS IN GREAT DISTRESS WHEN HE

CONSIDERED THAT THE BLOOD OF OUR BROTHERS WAS BEING SPILLED, INNOCENT PEOPLE MASSACRED AND GREAT MATERIAL DESTRUCTION WAS OCCURRING DAILY IN A CONFLICT THAT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED.

ISRAEL WAS PUBLICLY CONDEMNED, AND WE CONFIRMED AND REAFFIRMED OUR SOLIDARITY WITH OUR ARAB BROTHERS. LIBERIA'S POSITION HAS BEEN THAT OF PURSUING A CLEAR, CONSISTENT AND CENTRIC COURSE THAT IS EXPECTED TO BRING LASTING PEACE WITH JUSTICE IN THE REGION.

IN THIS SPIRIT, DR. TOLBERT ADDRESSED SPECIAL MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT NIXON OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICAN AND PRESIDENT PODGORNY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS URGING THEM TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO HALT THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, AND RECEIVED PROMPT REPLIES AND ASSURANCES OF INTENSIFIED EFFORTS TO OCCASION A CEASE-FIRE AS THE FIRST STEP IN NEGOTIATING A SECURED AND ENDURING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO ADDRESSED SPECIAL MESSAGES TO SEVERAL HEADS OF STATE INCLUDING GENERAL GOWON AS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY; MRS. GOLDA MEIR OF ISRAEL; PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT? HIS HOLINESS THE POPE; PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE OF ALGERIA; PRESIDENT QUADAFI OF LYBIA AND OTHERS INFORMING THEM OF THE ACTION HE HAD TAKEN TO BRING ABOUT A CEASE-FIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR.

TWO ASSURANCES TO DR. TOLBERT ON EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A CEASE-FIRE CAME FROM THE LEADERS OF THE TWO SUPER-POWERS. IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE LIBERIAN HEAD OF STATE, PRESIDENT NIXON SAID: "...WE ALL MUST BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE INGENUITY OF MEN OF GOOD WILL TO END THE HUMAN SUFFERING OF WAR AND BRING PEACE TO THE TRAGICALLY EMBATTLED MIDDLE EAST. PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS TRYING ITS UTMOST TO HALT THE FIGHTING AND ENCOURAGE DIPLOMATIC MOVES LEADING TO A JUST PEACE IN THAT TROUBLED PART OF OUR WORLD."

IN HIS REPLY TO DR. TOLBERT, DELIVERED BY THE SOVIET
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AMBASSADOR TO LIBERIA, PRESIDENT PODGORNY GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS (DR. TOLBERT'S) MESSAGE CONTAINED ELEMENTS WHICH FURNISHED A BASIS FOR RESOLUTION 338 ADOPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL GROWING OUT OF INITIATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS. THE SOVIET ENVOY SAID THE MESSAGE FROM MR. PODGORNY ENDED WITH THE POSITIVE DECLARATION THAT "THE SOVIET UNION WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE HER INFLUENCE TO ACHIEVE A JUST AND

PERMANENT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

THUS, DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF THE CRISIS, THE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA KEPT ALIVE THE TRANSCENDENT HOPE FOR PEACE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ADHERING TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT NO TERRITORY SHOULD BE ACQUIRED BY FORCE OF ARMS. AS THE CEASE-FIRE IS NOW BEING EFFECTED, LIBERIA WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS BY EXERTING HER BEST ENDEAVORS TO CONVINCE THE DISPUTING PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAT THEIR MOST PROMISING CHANCE FOR ACHIEVING A LAST-ING PEACE, IS TO EFFECTUATE WITHOUT DELAY SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242. END OF QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS WITH ANY GOL OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, WE INTERPRET RELEASE TO MEAN THAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT PLANS STAND FIRM ON HIS DECISION NOT TO SEVER RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND IS TRYING PUBLICLY JUSTIFY THAT DECISION. ALTHOUGH WE READ THIS AS A GOOD SIGN WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE GOL RESOLVE ON THIS ISSUE COULD DISAPPEAR IF SUFFICIENT PRESSURE APPLIED BY AFRICAN/ARAB BROTHERS.

3. AMBASSADOR PAYING PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER (AT MINISTER'S REQUEST) THIS AFTERNOON. HOPE GET HIS VIEWS AS TO REASONS/NECESSITY FOR STATEMENT.

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